



Meet the New Staff

Paw Prints will feature new 2023-'24 ERMS staff members, each issue going forward, until all have been recognized.

Mrs. Jackie Hornsby is from Kentucky where she taught for seventeen years prior to making the move to East Ridge Middle. An avid reader, her favorite book of all time to teach is *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, and she really loves introducing students to books that turn them into readers. "If you do not love to read, it's only because you haven't met the right book," she says. Her love of reading translates into homework for her students - she requires all of her ELA students to read 100 minutes per week for homework.

Mrs. Hornsby attended Eastern Kentucky University for her undergraduate program and later on to Georgetown College to get her Master's Degree and to become a reading specialist. Currently, she serves ERMS in the 7th grade, which she says is her favorite grade to teach. She has taught both middle school and high school in the past in Kentucky. A fun fact about Mrs. Hornsby is that she almost became a lawyer. She actually attended the University of Kentucky College of Law for a year before deciding to make teaching her lifelong career.

-Sophie Moore

Melanie Black, School Nurse

Another new staff member at East Ridge Middle this year is our school nurse, **Melanie Black**. Sure to greet every student with a sincere smile, nurse Black has the job of making "bears" feel all better when we



have a cut, sniffle, sneeze or just need a cough drop. Of course, she also helps students to manage more serious health

matters, such as severe allergies and diabetes.

Some cool facts about Nurse Black include : She is obsessed with the Grinch and loves singing, especially 80's music. Also, she loves French bulldogs.

Nurse Black says that her greatest achievement is being a mom to two girls. She says the reason she came to East Ridge Middle School was because her kids were here and she could spend more time with them (especially as a single mom). The thing she loves most about her work is being able to hang out and talk with students.

-Maddison Masengill

Dear “ERMY”

Each month, we will feature our very own advice column in ERMS Paw Prints. Who is ERMY? We will answer this burning question in a future edition of the news. Meanwhile, we welcome more submissions from the student body or even staff. Let “ERMY” help to settle your dilemma or answer your questions. **Disclaimer: For the confidentiality of students we have kept their names secret. Hence, the use of pseudonyms.**

Dear ERMY,

“I am struggling to raise my grade in a couple of classes. I feel like I am giving my best on assignments and tests but never see any improvement on my grades. What would you suggest that I do?”

-A stressed out seventh grader

Dear Stressed,

If you are struggling to understand topics, I would recommend talking to your teachers, as they are here to help you. I know sometimes it feels like you can’t do any better, but don’t let it get to you.

Also, our school does offer after-school tutoring. Ask Mrs. Fickle about this program for seventh graders.

Your advisor,
ERMY

Dear ERMY,

“I want to give gifts to all of my family members for Christmas but I don’t have the money. What can I do to show my family some love without spending a lot of money?”

-The Gifter

Dear Gifter,

I would say that the best options for you would be to make homemade gifts or even write something for them, such as a poem. Remember, it’s the thought that counts.

Your advisor,
ERMY

The Meaning of the Holiday Season By Gardenia Garcia

Thanksgiving was a time for us all to reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for – freedom, friends, family, and other blessings that we enjoy as Tennesseans and Americans.

At my house, the tradition at Thanksgiving is to go around the table and say what we are most grateful for. Nowadays, I am thankful for being in this amazing state, having an abundance of food, and living a happy and healthy life. Just think about it. There are so many people out there who have close to nothing with no one out there to help them. Thanksgiving, to me, means being thankful for what you have and thinking about what other people do not have.

Christmas, then, should be a time for us to share with others on those occasions when we find ourselves with more than enough. Gratitude and giving to others are two of the most important parts of life, and Thanksgiving and Christmas go hand-in-hand as the two most important days of the year to celebrate these important values.

My family members love spending time together on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will exchange gifts, but the time together is the greatest gift of all.

This year, the toy drive being coordinated by the Beta Club is a wonderful opportunity to give to others. I hope that every person who has more than enough this holiday season will donate to the toy drive as a way to show gratitude for all the blessings that we enjoy.

Important Upcoming Dates

December 1	Beta Club Toy Drive begins (goal is 225 new toys)
December 4	BB @ Maury
Dec. 6th-7th	ELA Benchmark Exams
Dec. 7th	Winter Sports Pictures (basketball and cheerleading) Beta Meetings (Extended Skills) BB vs. Rutledge (JVB, VG, VB)
Dec. 11th	J-V BB Games ♥ WestView (6th grade only)
12th	V BB Games @ WSCC (7th/8th grades)
14th	Christmas Concert @ East High (6pm) BB @ Jefferson
15th	Christmas Concert (9am)
18th	First Semester Reward Dance (Afternoon) BB @ White Pine
19th	Benchmark Window Closes
20th	½ Day (11:15am Dismissal) End 3rd Six Weeks / 2nd 9 Weeks / 1st Semester End, Beta Club Toy Drive
21st	Christmas Break Begins
January 4, 2024	Return to school



Contest: find the hidden heart and star and email snips of your screen to drinnont9@students.hcboe.net. Winner will be chosen at random and announced the following morning.